



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/021,474	10/30/2001	Sukhminder Grewal	17652-00008	1287

7590

12/15/2004

John S. Beulick
Armstrong Teasdale LLP
Suite 2600
One Metropolitan Sq.
St. Louis, MO 63102

EXAMINER

CHOJNACKI, MELLISSA M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2164

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/021,474

Applicant(s)

GREWAL ET AL.

Examiner

Melissa M Chojnacki

Art Unit

2164

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 August 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 and 21-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 and 21-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.



SAM RIMELL
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 2164

DETAILED ACTION

Remarks

1. In response to communications filed on August 17, 2004, claims 1-17 and 21-25 are presently pending in the application. Claims 18-20 have been cancelled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-17 and 21-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by August et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,647,383).

As to claim 1, August et al. teaches a method for displaying search results using a computer coupled to a database (See column 25, lines 29-36), the method comprising the steps of:

inputting into the computer user data including at least one of an organization associated with the user, a function associated with the user, and a geographic location of the user; storing the user data in the database (See abstract; column 2, lines 62-67; column 3, lines 1-8, lines 30-34; column 3, lines 38-53; column 4, lines 6-22; column 12, lines 44-57);

assigning the user based on the user data to at least one business community, and at least one sub-business community (See column 3, lines 10-14, lines 57-61; column 11, lines 12-18; column 12, lines 44-57);

prompting the user to enter search terms into the computer for performing a search for information (See abstract; column 12, lines 58-67; column 13, lines 1-6);

displaying on the computer search results from the performed search, each search result being previously assigned to at least one business community and at least one sub-business community (See abstract; column 3, lines 10-14, lines 57-61; column 4, lines 6-22; column 5, lines 13-27; column 11, lines 12-18); and

displaying a subset of the search results based on a user selection including at least one of the business community assigned to the user and the sub-business community assigned to the user, the displayed subset of search results includes each search result from the performed search having been previously assigned to the corresponding user selection (See column 3, lines 10-14, lines 57-61; column 4, lines 6-22; column 5, lines 13-27; column 10, lines 29-42; column 13, lines 7-12).

As to claim 2, August et al. teaches wherein the user selects a customized business community, and wherein displaying a subset of the search results based on a user selection further comprises displaying a subset of the search results based on a user selection including the customized business community

previously selected by the user, wherein by selecting the customized business community the computer displays each search result from the performed search having been previously assigned to the customized business community selected by the user (See abstract; column 3, lines 41-47, where "community" is read on "Community of Interest (CIO)"; also see column 4, lines 33-39; lines 53-54); column 11, lines 12-18; column 17, lines 64-67; column 18, lines 31-40).

As to claim 3, August et al. teaches wherein each search result is previously assigned to a location, and wherein displaying a subset of the search results based on a user selection further comprises displaying a subset of the search results based on a user selection relating to the geographic location of the user (See column 3, lines 41-47, where "communities" is read on "Community of Interest (CIO)"; also see column 4, lines 33-39; lines 53-54; column 17, lines 64-67; column 18, lines 31-40).

As to claim 4, August et al. teaches wherein displaying on the computer search results from the performed search further comprises enabling a user to select one of a plurality of types of search results to be displayed, wherein a first type of search result that can be displayed comprises a complete set of the search results, and wherein a second type of search result comprises a subset of the complete search results (See abstract; column 1, lines 8-12, lines 26-44; column 12, lines 58-67; column 13, lines 1-4).

As to claim 5, August et al. teaches wherein enabling a user to select one of a plurality of types of search results to be displayed further comprises enabling a user to select one of a plurality of types of search results to be displayed, the second type of search result is based on a first vector wherein the first vector includes a business community assigned to the user (See column 12, lines 61-67; column 13, lines 1-6, where "second type of search results" is read on "nodes"; also see column 14, lines 50-53; and column 15, lines 5-8).

As to claim 6 and 16, August et al. teaches wherein enabling a user to select one of a plurality of types of search results to be displayed further comprises enabling a user can to select a third type and a fourth type of search results, the third type of search result based on a second vector and the fourth type of search result based on a third vector, the second vector includes a sub-business community assigned to the user and the third vector includes a customized business community assigned to the user (See column 3, lines 10-14, lines 57-61; column 11, lines 12-18; column 12, lines 44-57, lines 61-67; column 13, lines 1-6, where "third type and forth type of search results" are read on "nodes"; also see column 14, lines 50-53; and column 15, lines 5-8); wherein a user can select a third type and a fourth type of search results, the third type of search result based on a second vector and the fourth type of search result based on a third vector, the second vector includes the sub-business community assigned to the user and the third vector includes a customized business community selected by the user See column 3, lines 10-14, lines 57-61; column

Art Unit: 2164

11, lines 12-18; column 12, lines 44-57, lines 61-67; column 13, lines 1-6, where "third type and forth type of search results" are read on "nodes"; also see column 14, lines 50-53; and column 15, lines 5-8).

As to claim 7, August et al. teaches wherein displaying a subset of the search results based on a selection by the user further comprises display a subset of the search results based on a selection by the user including by at least one of an engineering business community (See column 3, lines 10-14, lines 57-61; column 11, lines 12-18; column 12, lines 44-57).

As to claim 8, August et al. teaches a computer comprising a display, a user interface, and a processor, the computer coupled to a database, the processor programmed to receive user data including at least one of an organization associated with the user (See column 1, lines 8-12; column 3, lines 38-41), a function associated with the user, and a geographic location of the user;

store the user data in the database (See abstract; column 2, lines 62-67; column 3, lines 1-8, lines 30-34; column 3, lines 38-53; column 4, lines 6-22; column 12, lines 44-57);

assign the user based on the user data to at least one business community, and at least one sub-business community (See column 3, lines 10-14, lines 57-61; column 11, lines 12-18; column 12, lines 44-57);

prompt the user to enter search terms for performing a search for information (See abstract; column 12, lines 58-67; column 13, lines 1-6);

display on the user interface search results from the performed search, each search result being previously assigned to at least one business community and at least one sub-business community (See abstract; column 3, lines 10-14, lines 57-61; column 4, lines 6-22; column 5, lines 13-27; column 11, lines 12-18); and

display on the user interface a subset of the search results based on a user selection including at least one of the business community assigned to the user and the sub-business community assigned to the user, the displayed subset of search results includes each search result from the performed search having been previously assigned to the corresponding user selection (See column 3, lines 10-14, lines 57-61; column 4, lines 6-22; column 5, lines 13-27; column 10, lines 29-42; column 13, lines 7-12).

As to claim 9, August et al. teaches wherein the computer is configured to be coupled to a network, and wherein the search results are based on a search of data sources in the network (See column 3, lines 47-53).

As to claim 10, August et al. teaches wherein the network is at least one of a local area network and a wide area network (See column 3, lines 47-53; column 19, lines 51-55).

As to claim 11, August et al. teaches wherein the processor is further programmed to: prompt the user to select a customized business community (See column 10, lines 29-42);

display on the user interface an interactive selection bar including a business community selector, a sub-business community selector, and a customized business community selector (See column 10, lines 29-42, where “interactive selection bar” is read on “tools and guides”; also see column 11, lines 3-18; column 13, lines 7-12); and

display on the user interface a subset of the search results based on the selector selected by the user from the interactive bar, the displayed subset of search results corresponding to the selector selected by the user and the community wherein each search result has been assigned (See column 10, lines 29-42, where “interactive selection bar” is read on “tools and guides”; also see column 13, lines 7-12).

As to claim 12, August et al. teaches wherein the interactive selection bar further includes a location selector (See column 10, lines 29-42, where “interactive selection bar” is read on “tools and guides”; also see column 13, lines 7-12; column 17, lines 64-67; column 18, lines 31-40).

As to claim 13, August et al. teaches wherein the user selection comprises one of a plurality of communities in which the user is a member wherein the user selection comprises one of a plurality of communities in which the user is a

Art Unit: 2164

member (See column 3, lines 41-47, where “communities” is read on “Community of Interest (CIO)”; also see column 4, lines 33-39; lines 53-54).

As to claim 14, August et al. teaches wherein the user interface is configured so that a user can select one of a plurality of types of search results to be displayed (See column 10, lines 29-42), and wherein a first type of search result that can be displayed comprises a complete set of the search results, and wherein a second type of search result comprises a subset of the complete search results (See column 12, lines 58-67; column 13, lines 1-4).

As to claim 15, August et al. teaches wherein the second type of search result is based on a first vector wherein the first vector includes a business community assigned to the user (See column 12, lines 12-17, lines 61-67; column 13, lines 1-6, where “second type of search results” is read on “nodes”; also see column 14, lines 50-53; and column 15, lines 5-8).

As to claim 17 and 23, August et al. teaches wherein the business community includes an engineering community, and the sub-business community includes at least one of a power systems community, and an aircraft industry community (See abstract; column 3, lines 1-8, lines 30-34; column 3, lines 38-53; column 4, lines 6-22; column 12, lines 44-57; column 19, lines 10-25); further comprising a code segment wherein the at least one business community includes an engineering community, and the at least one sub-business

Art Unit: 2164

community includes at least one of a power systems community, and an aircraft industry community (See abstract; column 3, lines 1-8, lines 30-34; column 3, lines 38-53; column 4, lines 6-22; column 12, lines 44-57; column 19, lines 10-25).

As to claim 21, August et al. teaches a computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for displaying search results on a user interface coupled to a computer, the program comprising a code segment that receives user data including at least one of an organization associated with the user (See column 1, lines 8-12; column 3, lines 38-41), a function associated with the user, and a geographic location of the user and then:

stores the user data in a database (See abstract; column 2, lines 62-67; column 3, lines 1-8, lines 30-34; column 3, lines 38-53; column 4, lines 6-22; column 12, lines 44-57);

assigns the user based on the user data to at least one business community, and at least one sub-business community (See column 3, lines 10-14, lines 57-61; column 11, lines 12-18; column 12, lines 44-57);

prompts the user to enter search terms for performing a search for information (See abstract; column 12, lines 58-67; column 13, lines 1-6);

displays on the user interface search results from the performed search, each search result being previously assigned to at least one business community and at least one sub-business community (See abstract; column 3, lines 10-14,

Art Unit: 2164

lines 57-61; column 4, lines 6-22; column 5, lines 13-27; column 11, lines 12-18);
and

displays on the user interface a subset of the search results based on a user selection including at least one of the business community assigned to the user and the sub-business community assigned to the user, the displayed subset of search results includes each search result from the performed search having been previously assigned to the corresponding user selection (See column 3, lines 10-14, lines 57-61; column 4, lines 6-22; column 5, lines 13-27; column 10, lines 29-42; column 13, lines 7-12).

As to claim 22, August et al. teaches prompts the user to select a customized business community (See column 10, lines 29-42);

displays on the user interface an interactive selection bar including a business community selector, a sub-business community selector, and a customized business community selector (See column 10, lines 29-42, where “interactive selection bar” is read on “tools and guides”; also see column 11, lines 3-18; column 13, lines 7-12); and

displays on the user interface a subset of the search results based on the selector selected by the user from the interactive bar, the displayed subset of search results corresponding to the selector selected by the user and the community wherein each search result has been assigned (See column 10, lines 29-42, where “interactive selection bar” is read on “tools and guides”; also see column 13, lines 7-12).

As to claims 24 and 25, August et al. teaches storing information in the database including a plurality of documents relating to a plurality of subject matters (See abstract; column 3, lines 41-47; column 4, lines 33-39; lines 53-54; column 19, lines 1-25); and

assigning each document stored in the database to at least one business community and at least one sub-business community (See abstract; column 2, lines 63-67; column 3, lines 1-8; lines 38-53).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed on 17-August -2004, with respect to the rejected claims 1-17 and 21-25 have been fully considered but they are not found to be persuasive:

In response to applicants' arguments regarding independent claims 1, 8 and 22, that August et al. "does not describe or suggest a method for displaying search results that includes inputting into a computer user data including at least one of an organization associated with the user, a function associated with the user, and a geographic location of the user, and assigning the user based on the user data to at least one business community, and at least one sub-business community". August et al. discloses a "personality profile catalogue" that creates a community of interest profile for a user in order for the user to receive/display information that pertains to the users specific interests, which range from the users area of interest (age, language and location) to the users specific interest

Art Unit: 2164

group such as a business community (See column 12, lines 44-51; column 16, lines 16-60; column 18, lines 31-39; column 27, lines 42-57). The user can then manipulate the displayed information to modify their search to be more specific.

In response to applicants' arguments regarding independent claim 1, that August et al. "does not describe or suggest displaying search results from the performed search wherein each search result being previously assigned to at least one business community and at least one sub-business community, and displaying a subset of the search results based on a user selection including at least one of the business community assigned to the user and the sub-business community assigned to the user wherein the displayed subset of search results includes each search result from the performed search having been previously assigned to the corresponding user selection". August et al. discloses a "proxy source catalogue" where source are identified by subject matter, and other attributes such as language and descriptions and are displayed to the user by the users preferences, community of interest and group/business interests. The user can also retrieve information from sub-groups/sub-business community; or modify the search results for more accurate and precise information they are looking for (See column 5, lines 15-25; column 12, lines 44-57; column 18, lines 61-67; column 19, lines 1-18).

In response to applicants' arguments regarding independent claims 1, 8 and 22, that August et al. "neither describes nor suggests a computer including a user interface, and a processor, wherein the processor is programmed to receive user data including at least one of an organization associated with the user, a

Art Unit: 2164

function associated with the user, and a geographic location of the user, and assign the user based on the user data to at least one business community, and at least one sub-business community". August et al. discloses a "personality profile catalogue" that creates a community of interest profile for a user in order for the user to receive/display information that pertains to the users specific interests, which range from the users area of interest (age, language and location) to the users specific interest group such as a business community (See column 12, lines 44-51; column 16, lines 16-60; column 18, lines 31-39; column 27, lines 42-57). The user can enter their profile and search request via a GUI in order to receive the proper information regarding the user particular group/business of interest. The profile is stored so that the information the user need will be specific to the users group of interest (See column 4, lines 6-18; column 27, lines 17-33, lines 40-54). August et al. does disclose the limitations of claims 1, 8 and 22, and therefore, the rejection stands. Claims 2-7, 9-17 and 23-25 are rejected because they are dependent upon rejected independent claims 1, 8 and 22.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory

Art Unit: 2164

action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mellissa M. Chojnacki whose telephone number is (571) 272-4076. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici can be reached on (571) 272-4083. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mmc
December 6, 2004



SAM RIMELL
PRIMARY EXAMINER